

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 16, 2007. Claims 1, 4 to 11 and 14 to 31 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 21 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2 and 12 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Office Action contended certain features of Claims 3 and 13 were not shown in the figures. In addition, Claims 3 and 13 were objected to for various informalities. Finally, Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the correctness of the objections and rejection, Applicant has canceled Claims 3 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these objections and this rejection.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 21 to clarify that it is directed to a computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-executable program as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,316 (Nishiyama). Claims 14 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,188,490 (Miyake). Claims 4 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nishiyama in view of Miyake. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 12. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 11 and 21 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Furthermore, Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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